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STATEWIDE STEERING COMMITTEE ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Youth Led Change for Healthier Generations

May 30, 2013

To: Youth (ages 16-24) who are involved in The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities work in Del Norte, South Sacramento, Fresno, South Kern, Long Beach, Eastern Coachella Valley and City Heights.

From: Melissa Guajardo, California Center for Civic Participation
The BHC Statewide Steering Committee on Youth Leadership
and
The California Endowment

Re: INVITATION TO apply for the BHC Statewide Steering Committee on Youth Leadership

The Statewide Steering Committee for Youth Leadership in Building Health Communities provides youth with opportunities to develop new skills, express their opinions and to take action! We believe that youth have powerful ideas, that they are capable of speaking for themselves, and that their involvement will accelerate progress to a better future. We are seeking one youth from the 7 communities listed above, aged 16-24, to serve on the BHC Statewide Steering Committee for Youth Leadership.

Communities involved in the BHC initiative statewide are charged with engaging youth in their work to improve the health of residents by creating healthier neighborhoods. In addition to the local work, efforts are emerging to engage youth in regional and statewide policy work and to create learning communities to support youth and adults as they work together in this exciting initiative. The Statewide Steering Committee guides and supports these statewide efforts.

WHAT IS REQUIRED? HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants must have passion for improving our future that is reflected in your written statement. Applicants must be familiar with and have connections to the BHC work happening in their community. Prior leadership experience is a plus but not required. You must pledge to make this project a priority for a 2-3 year term and make sure that you can fulfill your academic and family responsibilities at the same time.

This is a competitive process. While we would like for all applicants to participate, we can only choose 1 youth from each community. Applicants who are not chosen will have their applications on file in case of an opening later in the year.

Individual applications must be accompanied by the recommendation form completed by an adult you know through the BHC work in your community. Application and Recommendation Forms are due by 5:00 PM August 1, 2013. Complete the electronic application and send to Melissa Guajardo at mguajardo@californiacenter.org or fax to 916-443-2297.

Please contact Melissa Guajardo with any questions: mguajardo@californiacenter.org or 916-443-2229.



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FACT SHEET

What is Building Healthy Communities (BHC)?

The California Endowment has teamed up with 14 communities throughout the state to help improve their physical, social, and economic environments, and thereby promote the health of children and families. Through this Building Healthy Communities, the Endowment and those involved have come to understand that health happens not just in doctors' offices, but health happens in neighborhoods.

What is the BHC Statewide Steering Committee on Youth Leadership?

The BHC Statewide Steering Committee is a statewide youth advisory body to Building Healthy Communities led by The California Endowment. The Statewide Steering Committee on Youth Leadership amplifies the voice, creativity and power of youth to organize and advocate for transformational change and healing in our communities and across California. The purpose of the SC is to coordinate and support statewide youth structure development, create opportunities for cross site youth engagement, learning, support cross site communications regarding youth leadership, and guide statewide youth policy advocacy efforts.

Why should I participate in the Steering Committee?

- **Have your voice heard** – There are a lot of ideas about how youth should be engaged in leadership at a statewide and local level. It is essential that the youth themselves continue to have a voice in this process and **YOU** can be that voice.
- **Meet new people** – Because the SC has participants from all over California, it is a great way to meet other youth and adults from around the state.
- **Good experience** – The program helps you prepare for college and professional life, looks great on college applications, and gives you opportunities to connect with new mentors.
- **Earn a little money** – Youth participants will receive \$1,000 per year stipend for their commitment to the SC. All travel expenses will be paid.

What would my responsibilities be?

- **Read and review materials in preparation** for meetings and calls.
- **Attend 3-4 in-person meetings per year.** During these meetings you will discuss issues that have arisen during the previous months, provide direction and advise the next steps of statewide youth leadership opportunities and work.
- **Participate in 3-5 conference calls** during the year to discuss steering committee business.
- **Represent your BHC site, conduct research and report back** to the SC and share information about the SC with your BHC hub, and youth leadership groups.

Who is on the committee?

The steering committee is made up of 14 youth ages 16-24 with the following advisors: (2) hub managers, (2) program managers from The California Endowment, and (2) youth coordinators supporting youth engagement on a site wide basis.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in participating in the BHC Statewide Youth Leadership Steering Committee, and as a result, developing and strengthening your own leadership skills and capacity:

- Complete the application form attached.
- Have a local adult ally from an organization you are affiliated with in your area provide a recommendation for you.
- Return both to Melissa Guajardo by 5pm August 1, 2013. Email mguajardo@californiacenter.org or fax 916-443-2297



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Application Form

Name:

Affiliation with BHC (School/Organization):

Adult Support person at this School or Organization:

BHC Community:

Home Address:

City-State-Zip:

Best phone to reach you:

E-Mail:

Race:

Gender: M F

Age:

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. Maximum 3 pages.

1. What attracted you to the opportunity to serve on this Steering Committee?

2. What issues are being addressed in your community through Building Healthy Communities and how are you involved in these efforts to improve the community? How long have you been involved in your local BHC work?



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Adult Recommendation Form

About the Person Making the Recommendation:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

How long have you known the applicant:

About the Youth Applicant:

Name:

How long has the applicant been involved in the BHC work in your area:

Please make a statement about the nominee and why he/she would be a valuable and reliable member of the BHC Youth Leadership Steering Committee. Please indicate the level of participation and knowledge of local BHC work. Also indicate the applicant's ability to participate in meetings on equal standing with adults and other youth. (Attach up to one additional page if needed)